



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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US ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SOUTHEAST TEXAS

(Beaumont, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced the delivery of federal funds to further assist law enforcement officers in fighting violent crime and gangs in Southeast Texas.

Orwig was pleased to make the announcement, "Local, state and federal agencies have been working diligently on several projects aimed at removing gang activity in the area. These funds will benefit numerous communities in the Eastern District of Texas with a concentrated emphasis on Port Arthur."

Orwig presented almost five hundred thousand dollars to organizations participating in the initiative. Those receiving checks included the Nacogdoches Police Department - \$38,911.00, Communities in Schools - \$55,000.00, the Port Arthur Police Department - \$74,650.00, and the Inspire, Encourage, and Achieve (IEA) Juvenile Crime Prevention Program - \$ 126,125.00. Port Arthur Weed and Seed has also received \$175,000.00 for a total of \$469,686.00 in 2006.

As part of the Department of Justice's anti-gang and violent crime initiatives, television commercials for the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative were released. The commercials, in both English and Spanish, target convicted felons and reiterate the PSN message – convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. Violators will be investigated and prosecuted under federal and state firearm statutes resulting in significant prison sentences.

In addition to the U.S. Attorney's Office, members of the Project Safe Neighborhoods 2006 Advisory Board include Chairman Jim Doane of the Lamar Institute of Technology, Carman Apple of the Beaumont Police Department, Jim Gossett of the Orange County Parole Department, Brent Weaver of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Pat Knauth of the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, Jim Stott of the Jefferson County Adult Probation Department, Ed Cockrell of the Jefferson County Juvenile Probation Department, Chris Reed of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Jefferson County Commissioner Bo Alfred, Jefferson County, County Court Judge Lupe Flores, Jerry Moore of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Tim Duriso of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Rob King of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Port Arthur Police Chief Mark Blanton. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator is Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Englade.

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